

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03241 021725Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W  
----- 090808

R 021542Z MAR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 705  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; LENINGRAD FOR P&C, USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC,UR

SUBJECT: GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ARTS

REF: STATE 040496

1. KOKHNO TRAVELED FROM LENINGRAD TO MOSCOW FOR MEETING WITH CAO AT MIN CULT MARCH TWO. EARLIER OFFER TO ARRANGE MEETING IN LENINGRAD HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. SMAGIN OF MINCULT PRESENT DURING INTERVIEW.

2. HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION RANGED OVER KOKHNO'S PROFESSION, STUDY PROPOSAL, AND MATTERS OF DAILY LIFE. SIMPLE READING TEST ALSO ADMINISTERED. KOKHNO'S SELF EVALUATION (REFTEL) OF "FAIR" IS CORRECT. IN FSI TERMS HE WOULD RATE ABOUT S-2, R-2, HE CAN ARTICULATE HIS PROFESSIONAL PLANS AND DISCUSS DAILY AFFAIRS SLOWLY, BUT GETS LOST WITH QUICK AND NATURAL SPEECH. KOKHNO HAD NEVER BEFORE MET AMERICAN OR BRITISH NATIVE SPEAKER.

3. KOKHNO'S ENGLISH-LEVEL IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM MOST IREX GRANTEES BEFORE DEPARTURE, AT LEAST IN PAST. HE NEEDS ONE TO TWO MONTHS OF AN INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS, BUT SHOULD MANAGE WELL ENOUGH IN HIS FIELD AFTER THAT.

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4. HE IS ASST. PROFESSOR OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AT Leningrad Institute of Arts (Painting, Sculpture, Architecture). Soviet Landscape Architecture is integral part of city planning rather than separate subject as in US. He desires study US methods of teaching Landscape Architecture and types of American curricula. His specialty is methods of planning Landscape as part of overall urban planning. His extracurricular interest when visiting US is contemporary trends in paintings and graphics.

5. KOKHNO and Min Cult request a ten-month study period.

6. Embassy recommends a program be arranged for him and that he not be rejected. American graduate students in arts who have come here so far have not been known as much Russian as Kokhno knows English (sounds good for this program). Soviets have provided language training, Russian roommates, and much assistance for our people, and the adjustments have been good. IIE's rejection rather than assistance of Kokhno on language grounds would greatly complicate an already too complicated exchange, for Soviets would retaliate on weaker American students.

5. If IIE cannot adapt their program to bring Soviet students up to adequate language level, suggest program responsibility be transferred to IREX. From program beginning to this month's American candidate panel, IIE performance has been uniformly unprofessional and if there is doubt they can handle what will be their first Soviet stazhor, recommend IREX be used as it was last year.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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